

### AN ARMISTICE.

#### UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MR. ROYALL.

Pending Decision of the United States Supreme Court Something of a Truce Proclaimed.

On yesterday an understanding was arrived at between Mr. William L. Royall and Attorney-General Ayers whereby it was agreed that pending the appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from the judgment of Judge Bond in the *habes corpus* cases, no further action would be taken in the prosecutions against persons who have heretofore tendered coupons in payment of license-tax and afterwards pursued their business without license, and no further arrests would be made in such cases.

#### MR. ROYALL'S CONCESSIONS.

On the part of Mr. Royall it was agreed that, so far as he and his agents could control the tender of coupons for license-tax, no such tender should be made heretofore until the decision of the Supreme Court has been rendered upon the appeal from Judge Bond's judgment. Where persons cannot be controlled by Mr. Royall or his agents, and tenders of coupons pending the appeal, they will be supported or defended by him. It is also understood that no suits for damages against officials for arrests heretofore made are to be instituted pending the said appeal.

#### SCOPE OF THE UNDERSTANDING.

This understanding only applies to cases which come within the principles involved in the *habes corpus* appeal, and will be ruled by the decision of the Supreme Court thereon.

#### BARRATRY, CHAMPERTY, &c., &c.

The prosecution against Mr. Royall and others under the champerty and barratry acts, the suits for damages brought by him against the grand jurors and other officers, and the proceeding for contempt of court, are not affected by the understanding, and will proceed, as well as all the suits for damages for levies made for real and personal property taxes.

#### THE GOVERNOR.

This understanding was arrived at after full consultation with the Governor, and he fully concurred in the agreement.

#### THE REASONS FOR THE TRUCE.

The chief reason which induced this action on the part of the State officials was to avoid a forcible conflict of jurisdiction between the State courts and the subordinate Federal court.

To have instructed the officers of the State to continue to arrest persons engaged in business without license, after tender of coupons would have been futile, unless it was determined at the same time to resist the jurisdiction assumed by Judge Bond and protect the officers in refusing to obey his writs of *habes corpus*.

#### WHAT RESISTANCE WOULD MEAN.

For instance, as the *Dispatch* has informed, a person is arrested and imprisoned for doing business without license after tender of coupons. A writ of *habes corpus* is issued by Judge Bond; the officer refuses to obey the writ, and he is proceeded against for contempt and an attachment is issued against him. When the marshal comes to make the arrest he (the marshal) is imprisoned for contempt of the State court, in which the prisoner is held for trial, more force being used than the marshal can command (both officers having the power to summon the posse comitatus). Thereupon the whole power of the United States may, if necessary, be invoked in aid of the execution of the process of the Federal courts.

#### IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW SUCH A CONFLICT AS THIS WOULD END.

#### A SUGGESTION.

It has, however, been suggested that when the proper authorities are applied to for aid to enforce the execution of the process they will be met by the marshal and ascertain whether the court has erred; but, on the other hand, it is answered that the Executive department of the United States Government would not attempt such an inquiry when there existed a peaceable and orderly way of settling the matter by appeal to the Supreme Court.

#### ANOTHER REASON FOR THIS COURSE.

Another, but not the controlling reason for this course was the fact that there is no way provided by law for the payment to the officers of the costs and expenses which they would incur in either obeying or resisting the writs.

#### UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

It is believed that a decision may be obtained from the Supreme Court during the month of March. Attorney-General Ayers and Mr. Royall have united in a request to the court, through Chief-Justice Waite, to hear the appeal upon the earliest day that can be fixed by the court.

The important hearing of the case upon the peace and good order of the State, and the issue of the English forcible conflict of jurisdiction between the State courts and the United States Court, coupled with the attitude of Judge Bond toward the decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia in the *Jones* case, and the various reasons assigned for a speedy decision of the appeal by the Supreme Court of the United States.

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#### OTHER COUPONS MATTER.

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#### THE INDEMNITY BOARD AND THE LEGISLATURE.

The indemnity Board has not yet taken action about these litigations, and it is not known what will be done by it.

Some of its members desire that the Legislature be called together to act in the matter, but unless some feasible plan to solve the difficulty is suggested, it is not thought the Executive will be willing to call an extra session.

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### ASHLAND TOWN.

#### NEWS NOTES ABOUT RANDOLPH MACON COLLEGE.

Signs of Improvement—Personal—The Mozart Orchestra—A Kirmess, &c.

The Ashland correspondent of the *Dispatch* writes as follows: Mr. J. C. Martin, Jr., son of Rev. J. C. Martin, of Richmond, has been made editor of the *Richmond Macdonald Monthly*, one of the best college literary magazines published. This is quite an honor for so young a man, and from the ability he has shown as associate editor he will prove an able journalist.

Mrs. Crawford, mother of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, has given a handsome sum to the Young Men's Christian Association of the college. In addition to this she also presented a fine imperial cabinet picture of Bishop McTear. The librarian, Captain Richard Levy, is endeavoring to secure portraits of all the presidents of the college, and has thus far secured several.